

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 16

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In June 1944, the members of the 101st Airborne
2 Division demonstrated exceptional courage when their actions
3 helped clear the way for the arrival of Allied forces on Normandy
4 beaches during World War II; and

5 WHEREAS, On June 5, more than 6,500 paratroopers of the 101st
6 division spearheaded the start of the U.S. airborne assault on the
7 Cotentin Peninsula in Normandy, France; specifically, they carried
8 out the mission of securing four causeways leading inland and
9 neutralizing enemy resistance in advance of the amphibious landings
10 by the U.S. Army 4th Infantry Division the next morning; and

11 WHEREAS, Before dawn on June 6, the 502nd Parachute Infantry
12 Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division attacked and captured a
13 German garrison headquarters site at Marmion Farm, on the outskirts
14 of the Ravenoville village; under the direction of Major
15 John P. Stopka, the regiment took control of the site, denying
16 enemy movement against the northern shoulder of the 101st assault
17 area and the critical exits at Utah Beach; the paratroopers held
18 their posts until the early morning of June 7, when they were
19 relieved by lead elements of the 4th Infantry Division; and

20 WHEREAS, On June 6, 2012, the Eternal Heroes Memorial was
21 dedicated in Ravenoville in honor of the "Raveno Boys," whose
22 heroic stand contributed to the success of the Allied landings on
23 Utah Beach and ultimately the D-Day invasion of Normandy; counted
24 among the Raveno Boys were nine Texans: Ollie E. Barrington Jr. and

1 George W. Blackburn of Harris County, Justo Correa of Dimmit
2 County, Homer R. Estes of Stephens County, Leon Jackson of Hidalgo
3 County, and James R. Kumler, Joel R. Lander, Worster M. Morgan, and
4 Luther M. Tillery of Dallas County; and

5 WHEREAS, The Raveno Boys displayed extraordinary bravery in
6 the line of duty, and Americans owe a profound debt of gratitude to
7 these paratroopers and to all members of the U.S. armed forces who
8 so valiantly served during World War II; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature, 4th
10 Called Session, hereby recognize June 6 and 7, 2024, as Eternal
11 Heroes Memorial Days in honor of the Texas Raveno Boys.